

Talking points for interview with Rachel Leifer, Hattiesburg American,
[REDACTED]

There was a 66 percent decrease in the costs of defending frivolous lawsuits from 2003 to 2004, according to the Mississippians for Economic Progress (\$47.3 million to \$15.8 million).

This leaves companies with more money to invest in job creation, research and development and other needs.

The number of medical liability lawsuits was growing every year and reached a high of 2,474 in 2004, according to the Mississippi Medical Association. By 2005, the number had dropped dramatically to 274 suits.

Tort reform has changed Mississippi's image among global companies and organizations. We are now perceived to have a fair legal environment, which translates into a good place to do business. Business investment and growth lead to new jobs and a stable economy.

Tort reform also means fewer physicians are leaving Mississippi due to the high cost of defending unfounded lawsuits.